

The Office of Code Compliance Asks...

What's Your Number?

In many cases a fresh coat of paint or new siding has eliminated one of the most important features of your home – the street address number. Once removed for painting or siding, many never get replaced on the structure. In other instances a single number or a couple of numbers may have fallen off or peeled away over time until what once was 1234 Any Street now reads 1 – 3 – Any Street.

Your street address number plays a very important role in assisting emergency responders in quickly locating your home. In an emergency, seconds can sometimes make a life-saving difference. In addition, utility personnel, postal and delivery companies find it difficult to locate homes without address numbers that are not clearly and properly posted.

The *City of Lansing Housing and Premises Code* requires that structures have approved and correct address numbers placed in a position to be plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property. A property that abuts a public alley shall also have approved address numbers placed on a structure in a position to be plainly legible and visible from the public alley. These numbers shall contrast with their background. The address numbers shall be Arabic numerals and be a minimum of 4 inches high and a maximum of 12 inches high with a minimum stroke width of ½ inch.

Take a positive step by checking the condition of your address number. Are they of the proper height and width and securely installed? Look at how your numbers appear from the street and/or alley. Check the visibility of your address numbers during the day and at night. Can you easily see your house number from the street? If the answer is no, then its time to update your address signage by replacing numbers and making sure they contrast against their background.

With a properly installed and clearly visible address number, first responders will be able to locate your home more easily in the case of an emergency – *when just seconds count*.

Suggested Images:

Image 1: Image of front of house without address signage.

Image 2: (Large Numeral – 4” tall and ½” wide) perhaps use the numeral “**1**” as an example for this image. Caption: *Minimum requirements, 4 inches tall and ½” wide*

Image 3: **2346**
Caption: *Proper Address Signage*
Arabic Numerals
Note: Draw a box around the address numbers (contrasting background)

Image 4: ***Twenty Three Forty Six***
Caption: *Improper Address Signage*